

# MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

DECEMBER 18-24

STARRCADE EDITION

VOL. 2, No. 26

Road Warriors Win Ironteam

AT LONG LAST...

STING!!STING!!STING!!



ATLANTA --- In an upset which surprised even the most ardent of insiders, Sting upset Ric Flair in 14:42 of the finale of STARRCADE 89: FUTURE SHOCK Wednesday night to win the NWA Ironman tournament before an estimated 7,300. The dramatic win, biggest of Sting's career, capped an evening which saw the Road Warriors nudge the Steiner Brothers on points to take the Ironteam competition.

Points were awarded for: pinfall/submission (20), countout (15), disqualification (10) and draw (5 each). Going into the finale, Lex Luger---by virtue of a screw-job win over Sting, draw with Flair and DQ defeat of The Great Muta---led with 35 points. Flair (25) and Sting (20) needed victory to win the Ironman outright. The Warriors, upset by the Steiners in a George Scott-style finish earlier, rallied to defeat Doom and the new Wild Samoans (Fatu/Tonga) to take the Ironteam 40-35 over the Steiners.

The scoreboard and match-by-match recap:

## IRONMAN

STING	40
LEX LUGER	35
RIC FLAIR	25
GREAT MUTA	0

## IRONTTEAM

ROAD WARRIORS	40
STEINERS	35
WILD SAMOANS	30
DOOM	0

STING VS. LUGER: Not a thriller, more reminiscent of the weaker Luger-Barry Windham matches of the summer of '88. Sting sent Luger out with three clotheslines at 1:30. In the first clock-cutting of the night, Gary Cappetta called a 5:00 mark at a legit 2:20. Sting scored a near-fall with a flying cross body block at 4:45 but Luger rallied for 2 atomic drops at 6:20 (announced as 10:00). Luger followed with an elbow and powerslam but Sting made a Hogan comeback at 9:50 and scored a snap suplex for a near-fall. The two brawled outside until Luger was railed at 11:00. As the 2 struggled on the apron, both flipped over the rope with Luger clumsily on top, scoring the pin with his foot on the ropes for leverage. Luger gains 20 points for the pin.  
MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS.

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STEINERS VS. DOOM: Better than HALLOWEEN HAVOC. After a Steinerline, Ron Simmons and Scott swapped blows until Scott scored with a belly-to-belly suplex and then an atomic drop and backbreaker on Reed at 5:30. Scott sailed over the top at 5:58 and was pounded by Nitron. Reed powerslammed Scott for a near-fall and Simmons suplexed at 7:19. Scott stayed in trouble until 10:15 when he reversed a piledriver try, then escaped with belly-to-belly to tag Rick at 10:50. All 4 brawled and after a double Steinerline, went outside but Rick dove back on count of 9 at 12:25, leaving Reed counted out. Steiners score 15 for a COR. RATING: DRAW.

DOOM VS. ROAD WARRIORS: Bruce Grummert led ringsiders in the chant, "Ron Simmons SUX!" It was all Warriors until the

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**FLAIR VS. MUTA:** Spectacular heat here and they crammed more into 1:32 than most get in half an hour. Muta jumped to hot start with handspring kick at :30. Ole & Arn Anderson were at ringside to counteract Gary Hart. Flair & Keiji traded chops at :50 before Flair scored a single-leg atomic drop and went for the figure-4 at 1:10. Hart called for Buzz Sawyer and Dragonmaster, who got into major brawl with Andersons as Muta escaped. Muta went for the moonsault at 1:25 and missed as the outside brawl continued. Flair kneed Muta on his flight down & rolled him up in a package to hand the NWA TV champ his first WCW loss. RATING: POWERSLAM-PLUS. SCORE: Luger 20, Flair 20, Sting 0, Muta 0.

**STING VS. MUTA:** Maybe each was saving for his finale but this wasn't nearly as good as the BASH. Muta went for full nelson early and after a good exchange, Sting scored with a backflip, clothesline & suplex series for a 2-count at 2:27. He made an abortive attempt for a Scorpion at 3:06. Muta rallied for a double underhook and bridge at 5:00 before Sting rallied for a military press & elbow smash for 2 near-falls. The turning point came at 8:02 when Sting rallied from a karate kick, scored a dropkick, from which Muta crotched. Sting superplexed Muta for the pin at 8:35. RATING: DRAW. SCORE: Luger 20, Flair 20, Sting 20, Muta 0.

**FLAIR VS. LUGER:** They went the other way, giving 2 extra minutes on this one. After early stalling, Luger didn't sell Flair's chops until a massive one decked him. Flair used wristlocks and armbars in this mostly defensive match until Luger raked the eyes & rubbed Flair's eye on the ropes. Luger used a clothesline, 3 power elbows and military press to gain a 2 3/4 count at 12:30. Flair rallied for a 2-count backslide at 14:10. After an exchange, the Flair flip over the ropes nearly smashed Jackie Crockett and Luger decked Ric for a 2 5/6 count. Flair was tossed out but nearly won with a sunset flip at 15:20. But when Lex missed an elbow from the top at 16:10, Flair went for the figure-4 and held it the final 27 seconds. Luger held on for the 17:07 15-minute draw. 5 points each. RATING: DRAW-PLUS. SCORE: Luger 25, Flair 25, Sting 20, Muta 0.

**LUGER VS. MUTA:** Muta put on a show here and had it not been for the lousy finish, it would have been one of his best performances. Luger sells the limp from Flair's figure-4 to perfection. Muta went right to work on the leg and added a beautiful spinkick and stepover at 4:42. Luger rallied for elbows but Muta caught Lex in a half Boston crab at 6:33. Luger made it to ropes but Muta spinkicked him at 8:55 (11:30 Turner time). After a Luger clothesline and a poor hip toss, Muta was thrown out but Keiji gained a 2-count on a cradle before Luger rallied for a powerslam. Hart goes to the apron and Lex goes for him. As Luger turns around, Muta sprays him with the mist at 11:46 and loses for the third straight time, albeit by DQ, which won't set well in Japan. A big 10 for Lex. RATING: POWERSLAM. SCORE: Luger 35, Flair 25, Sting 20, Muta 0.

**FLAIR VS. STING:** The fans split widely between the two but it was an all-out effort and Flair played the heel here. After early fast exchanges, Flair set sting on the ropes and let out a WHOOOO! Sting came back at 4:30 with a military press. He followed up with a backslide, 2 dropkicks and 2

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## STARRCADE SCOREBOARD

**IRONTEAM** (Continued from Page 1): 2:52 mark (5:00 Turner time) when Hawk rammed his shoulder into the post and took a nasty bump out. Double elbow and Reed clothesline led to 2 near-falls on Hawk. At 6:40, Dick Bourne cranked up the "L-O-D" chants and Hawk tagged Animal, who was all offense, scoring a 2-count powerslam. All 4 brawled and Hawk was tossed out at 8:16 but revived to climb the rope and as the ref was distracted, Hawk Warriorlined Reed to set up the pin for Animal at 8:30. RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS. SCORE: Warriors 20, Steiners 15, Doom 0, Samoans coming to bat. Crowd has no interest in Doom.

**STEINERS VS. ROAD WARRIORS:** Lots of fan intensity but not as much yelling early as crowd was too curious and few picked favorites. Hawk led with an enzuguiri on Scott, followed by stiff clothesline and double elbow before Scott rallied with Steinerline at 1:40. Animal took belly-to-bellies from both Steiners before rallying for a clothesline at 4:12. Hawk chipped in a hangman backbreaker and side salto. At 5:20, Scott tried a belly-to-belly on Hawk from 2nd rope, Hawk reversed and both were stunned. The 4 brawled at 6:50 when Hawk clotheslined Scott from top to set up the pin for Animal. But as both bridged, Scott raised his shoulder (a la the Luger win over Windham at CHI-TOWN) and upset the Roadies at 7:10. RATING: DRAW-PLUS. SCORE: Steiners 35, Warriors 20, Doom 0, Samoans mixing Hump's henna rinse.

**WILD SAMOANS VS. DOOM:** Fatu & Tonga finally show and we wish they hadn't. This one was horrible. The most entertainment was when Dennis Brent handed me 2 broken braids of Tonga's hair and some fan had a fit to take one home. Tonga missed a flying headbutt at 3:29 and Reed threw him out and railed him at 5:20 but no heat came. Tonga pushed off a Reed bulldog at 6:40 and eventually, Reed was tripped up by Humperdink at 8:21 and lost for third straight time, changing team's name to DOOMED. RATING: BOMB-PLUS. SCORE: Steiners 35, Warriors 20, Samoans 20, Doomed 0 and out.

**STEINERS VS. SAMOANS:** Some fan yells at Tonga, "Have you Scotch taped your hair in better this time?" Steiners dominate first 3:00 and a Steinerline sends the Samoans retreating. But Rick & Tonga traded a Steinerline and Tongaline at 3:25. A real snoozer until Scott scored the night's only Frankensteiner at 12:38 on Fatu. Scott followed with a 2-count cradle. Then, as all 4 went at it, Tonga missed a headbutt and Rick threw Tonga over the top. The ref DQ'd Rick & gives the Samoans 10 points. Lots of missed moves here. RATING: RESTHOLD. SCORE: Steiners 35, Samoans 30, Warriors 20, Doomed 0 & questioning Nancy's purpose in life.

**ROAD WARRIORS VS. SAMOANS (FINALE):** Good early action here before the missed moves. But the Wild Samoans are not the SST. Hawk had to crank up the crowd at 4:00. He came in with a shoulderblock and rallied the Warriors. At one point, Tonga blew a backflip so badly, he & Animal were covering up their own laughter. Hawk finally scored the win with a clothesline off the top at 5:15 for 20 points. The Steiners came out for a congratulatory handshake as the Warriors came from behind to take the Ironteam. RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS. FINAL SCORE: Road Warriors 40, Steiners 35, Samoans 30, Doomed 0 and trying to hire Paul E. Dangerously.

(MORE STARRCADE ON PAGE 3)

**FLAIR VS. STING** (Continued from Page 2): shoulderblocks before Flair rallied to toss Sting out at 6:40. He chopped, then railed Sting before a high, high vertical suplex (quoting Solie) for two near-falls at 8:10. Flair followed with his trademark knee to the face, a hard chop and a guillotine for two more near-falls. Three more 2-counts came on a Flair small package, suplex and doublearm suplex before Sting came back with a clothesline for a 2 1/2 count at 10:36. Flair tried to chop but Sting wouldn't sell, then Sting reversed a suplex and came home with another clothesline for two more near falls at 12:35. He then scored with the Stinger splash and went for the Scorpion at 13:10 but Flair made the ropes. Flair hammered home his atomic drop and went for the figure-4 at 13:25 but Sting made the ropes. At this point, the ringsiders repeatedly began watching the stage, expecting a run-in from Luger (who if he had attacked Flair, would have given Sting a 10-point DQ win, yet preserved the tourney for himself). Instead, the red-hot crowd was treated to a brilliant minute of counterwrestling: a Flair guillotine, a Sting bridge, backslide and package, all for 2-counts, four of 18 in the match. Flair began working on the leg of Sting as Cappetta counted down the final minute. At 14:30, Ric went for the figure-4 but as he spun, Sting cradled Flair's neck and small packaged him for the upset and Ironman title at 14:40. After the crowd explosion, Ole & Arn came to the ring and the place quieted as their expressions gave the impression of triple-team attack coming. Instead, Arn called Sting over, grabbed his wrist, raised Sting's hand and gave the four-finger Horseman symbol. Flair shook his hand and the four left together to a screaming reaction. RATING: PILEDRIVER. FINAL SCORE: Sting 40, Luger 35, Flair 25, Muta 0.

### STARRCADE SIDELIGHTS

It was scary when we entered the arena floor at 6:50 p.m. (EST) and only about 2,000 people were in the building. It was your typical "this is STARRCADE?" reaction. But from 7:7:40, there was a steady flow of people in the seats. I asked a lot of the locals why they thought it was off from the 10,000-plus the Omni has drawn three times this year and was told: 1) Atlanta fans are used to an 8:00 start, Wednesday night is not an Atlanta night and the tourney format may not have been a major hook. The empty seats sure looked bad in the early telecast....It was about 29 degrees outside at bell time....I'm still enough of a fan that I loved being fooled by the finish. I was so sure Luger would go over and I'm not so sure he wouldn't have, had TBS and Jim Herd not ordered a late change in the booking. What the change was from, I don't know....For the record, if there had not been a point system, Luger would have won with a 2-0-1, followed by Sting (2-1), Flair (1-1-1) and Muta (0-3)....I'm told Muta's not thrilled about how his 0-3 will be received in Japan. But no matter what, somebody had to go down three times or it would have been a dud tourney.

An excellent innovation was using the electronic Matrix board in the Omni to keep the standings before the arena fans all night. I never heard anyone confused about who was ahead or how the scoring, which was well-explained to the fans, would potentially affect a wrestler....Using the manual scoreboard on TV was another good touch, plus the graphic was nicely used off the top to explain the scoring system....However, to show you how late the scoring method was decided: as late as Saturday, NWA shows were still saying "sudden death" (which, in most sports, means no draws) and no points for a draw (which 5 were awarded for)....Cameras almost missed the countout on Reed in the opener but the action was so crazy, it was a marginal miss....The initial contestant introductions looked much more spectacular live than they did on TV. We nearly rolled at ringside because the tag teams looked like prizes on THE PRICE IS RIGHT in front of their platforms.

The gag is tighter than ever backstage. Wrestlers are much more skittish than at Nashville about being seen within shouting distance of a newsletter writer. So be it....Arena fans were never really told, unless we missed it, why the Skyscrapers were not there but at least TV viewers were told of Vicious' punctured lung....Particularly after this, I see little future for Doom. Muta can recover, despite what anybody says---and stretches of the Luger match indicated, from fan reaction, how successful he could be as a babyface, something I expect to see early next year....WCW president Jack Petrik told me before the show the group is studying cutting back to a Thursday-through-Sunday arena schedule, except for TV tape dates. It makes sense with the current state of the arena business but a decision won't be made until next year....Jim Herd told us this precise format won't be used again but some variations, including a possible double elimination or single elimination tourney (a la Crockett Cup) might be used on one PPV next year....Petrik says a long way remains on the merchandising front but the products are getting better and business was much brisker at the souvenir stands than I've yet seen at NWA shows.

Jim Ross worked the show with an abscessed front tooth after dental surgery earlier in the week....I was told definitely no go on Tully Blanchard unless Tully is willing to seek some kind of rehab....It was great to reunite with Mike Gunter and to meet Lenis Sargent, Bruce Grummert, the Zalicjek twins, Bob Gordon and my traveling buddy, Dick Bourne, MATWATCHers all, at the Omni....the Grummert crew bought \$600 worth of NWA merchandise. Wonder what WWF show it will appear at next?....The clock-cutting did become somewhat of a ringside joke. It was ridiculous when 5 minutes was called at 2:20 of one match....The Road Warriors victory was met with a good reax but not nearly what it would have been 2 or 3 years ago....The NWA display inside CNN Center was most impressive with a larger-than-life figure of Flair and assorted NWA memorabilia. Interestingly, the Freebirds photo still features Terry Gordy....Expect Terry Funk to have a slowly-increasing amount of influence over the creativity within WCW and that can only be good news....Gunter's view on the night: "This was a good show, it had its moments and it was entertaining. But I've been to five STARRCADES and this just didn't seem like one."....As of Saturday morning, we'd had 111 calls with 76 (68.5%) giving the show "thumbs up," 22 (20%) an "average" rating, 7 a "fair" rating (6.3%) and 6 "poor" (5.2%).

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### THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

#### DANGEROUSLY REPORTEDLY GETS CWF TV OUTLETS

MONTGOMERY, ALA. --- Inside sources have told MATWATCH a consortium headed by former CWF and NWA star Paul E. Dangerously has gained control of the Continental promotion's TV outlets.

CWF is still seen on at least seven commercial stations, including the top-50 markets of Birmingham and on the Sunshine Network in Florida.

Dangerously met with CWF owner David Woods, who shut down the group after Thanksgiving because of money woes. The extent of potential involvement of former CWF booker Eddie Gilbert, under contract to the NWA through February, is not known.

The TV deal is expected to be the first step of a plan to unite as many as five independent promotions in a new competitive effort. Dangerously was scheduled to be in Montgomery to tape a series of six BEST OF CWF wraparound shows, which will feature key storylines from the Dangerously-Gilbert angles of the summer of '88.

#### BLACKWELL RECLAIMS SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP PROMOTION

ATLANTA --- Southern Championship Wrestling, knocked off a limited TV network in October after a hostile takeover by TV producer/director Larry Oldag, returned to Atlanta's WVEU-TV Saturday night.

SCW owner Jerry Blackwell reclaimed control of the group, which had been replaced for seven weeks by the financially troubled GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING.

The deal was struck at a show Dec. 10 at Marietta's Cobb County Civic Center. Blackwell reportedly gained new financing and offered to reassume control after Oldag could not continue to finance production for GAS.

#### RANDALL BROWN: "I WAS KIDNAPED"

ATLANTA --- Mysterious circumstances surround a self-alleged kidnaping of Atlanta wrestling TV personality Randall Brown.

Brown, co-host of WVEU's SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING with Boni Blackstone, claims he was beaten, abducted, bound and gagged after an independent wrestling show Dec. 10

in Marietta, Ga. Brown, who appeared at STARRCADE '89 with severe bruises on his face, says he was deposited near a dump site in Riverdale after allegedly being kept hostage for two days. Brown told associates he had filed a complaint with Riverdale police. MATWATCH was told by a dispatcher in the Riverdale Police Department no specifics could be released on the case.

### PINFALL PROFILE

I'm never sure what to think when certain videotapes come in the mail. If one recently were designed as a Christmas gift, I would have concerns as to what the message would be behind it. My good friend and fellow Ed Capral fan, Steve Sims of Chicago, shipped me a rush copy of the new CHICAGO CHALLENGE WRESTLING, a production of Bob Luce and Freebird Buddy Roberts. After viewing one episode, I can see why Luce and Roberts are no threat to Mark Goodson and Bill Todman and Todman's dead.

When a half-hour wrestling show has to open with a mat classic, you know you're in trouble. And when that classic has the memorable Jimmy Valiant as part of it, you're desperate. CHICAGO CHALLENGE is honestly the GONG SHOW of professional wrestling without the production values. The lighting appeared to be handled by a half-dozen GE 60-watt soft-whites. During one match, we were given a tour of the small arena where CHALLENGE was produced, thanks to an errant camera.

A so-called "match" between Great Wojo and Calypso Jim was enough to make Paul Jones vs. Ivan Koloff receive a standing ovation. But the epitome of horrible came during a "segment" called HOW MUCH PAIN CAN YOU STAND? I thought that was a question the hosts were asking the audience which sat still to watch the whole half-hour of CHICAGO CHALLENGE. It involved Roberts and his new young Freebird protege in an argument with rookie Luther Lewis, who is supposedly the "protege" of former heavyweight boxing champ Leon Spinks.

In one of the most excruciating angles in the history of the business, the Birds predictably jumped and wasted Lewis while Spinks, who appears to have even fewer teeth than when he defeated Muhammad Ali, just stood there and watched. Spinks was then asked if he planned to do something about this vicious attack. So help me, I better understood Andre the Giant when he first came to America. I'm not sure if Spinks was threatening to burn down the building or speaking in tongues. But I'll tell you, not even closed-captioning would have helped interpret Leon.

You know what's really funny? It was so bad it was good. I have had few half-hours I've ever spent seeing such uproariously bad television and actually wanted to see another episode, simply because I couldn't believe what I'd just watched. After viewing this, I'm convinced there's still hope for Jerry Van Dyke to have a hit show.

### RATINGS RAP

#### CABLE

##### Week Ending Dec. 11

	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 12/9)	3.4	6.6	1.72 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 12/11)	2.9	4.3	1.41 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 12/10)	2.4	4.3	1.22 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 12/11)	2.2	5.3	1.07 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 12/8)	2.0	3.4	1.01 million
NWA POWER HOUR [Replay] (TBS 12/9)	0.7	5.8	356,000

(ANALYSIS: This marks the fifth straight week WCW has either tied or led the cable ratings and some theories are being offered that the shows have been so appealing on TV that it has hurt the house attendance. The Flair "surprise" of Arn Anderson's return drew a 3.6/7.0 share at 7:00. PRIME TIME stayed flat and everyone else dropped. MAIN EVENT was off almost a full point from its 3.3 of the week before and POWER HOUR, with a weak 8-man tag match of Road Warriors/Steiners vs. four jobbers dropped to its lowest mark in five weeks. ALL-AMERICAN posted its lowest numbers in the last 13 months for a regular offering.)

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SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(STAMPEDE) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Great Gama d. Steve Gillespie; Archangel/Johnny Smith d. Vinnie Valentino/Sumohara; D.J. Peterson d. Goldie Rogers; Chris Benoit/Biff Wellington d. Black Harts; Larry Cameron d. Owen Hart by countout. DRAW. [Last Week]: Gama d. Dr. Zhivago; Benoit/Wellington d. Blackharts by DQ; Steve DiSalvo d. Skull Mason; Cameron d. Peterson by DQ; ANGLE: Peterson figure-4s Cameron on the floor and won't break until Larry agrees to N. American title match. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Rick Rude d. Frankie DeFalco; Jimmy Snuka d. Brian Costello; Powers of Pain d. Tim Sexton/Todd Becker; Tito Santana d. Barry Horowitz; Bubba Bossman d. Alan Reynolds; Honky Tonk Man d. Jim Evans; Demolition d. Brooklyn Brawler/Cleo Reeves. BOMB-PLUS. [SUPERSTARS]: Piper d. Tom Stone; Bolsheviks d. Mike Shelton/Mark Young; Dusty Rhodes d. Al Burke; Ted DiBiase d. Reno Riggins; Hercules d. Craig Green; BRO. LUV w. Randy Savage/Zeus; Rockers d. Brawler/Dave Wolfe; ANGLE: Sean & Marty double dropkick Mr. Fuji when he issues challenge for Powers of Pain; Dino Bravo d. Scott Colton & John Tenta squashes after. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: BRO. LUV w. Rude/Heenan; DiBiase d. Riggins; Bolsheviks d. Shelton/Young; Bossman d. Reynolds; Demolition d. Todd Becker/Tom Burton; Snuka d. Costello; Santana d. Honky but Honky clobbers Tito w. megaphone after; STUDIO: Piper threatens to put Pampers on Rude's rear end. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PWF) - PLA. TITLE: Steve Keirn d. Terminator by countout when Terminator didn't show; Brickhouse Brown d. Invader III; Bounty Hunters d. Scrap Iron/Joe Padero; LADIES PT. OF VIEW: Diane Hamilton w. Billy C. Wirtz; Bugsy McGraw d. Jumbo Baretta, then Blackjack Mulligan attacks w. bullrope & Bugsy juices heavy; Lou Perez/Tyree Pride d. Mark Starr/Ron Slinker by DQ when Wirtz runs in; Bodyguard Mark d. Jim Backlund by countout. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE/W.I.N.) - Tim Talltree d. Piloto Suicida; Ultraman/Mercurio d. Caballero de la Muerte/Tornado Negro; Adana DeAntifaz d. Amazona; Konan/Rey Misterio d. Mercenaries II & III; Ari Romero/Black Gordman d. Bobby Bradley/Bello Adam. DRAW.

(SCW) - [Return]: Mike Golden/Mr. Atlanta d. Steve Reeves/Chic Donovan; David Sammartino d. Invader; Chief Jay Eagle d. Chance Myers; Ivan Koloff d. Carlos Williams; Nightmare Ted Allen vs. Jimmy Powell ends in brawl. BOMB-PLUS.

(ICW) - Tom Prichard d. Eric Sapracea; Mr. Pogo d. Sonny Blaze; Bob Orton Jr. d. Borancano; S&S Express vs. Undertakers double DQ; Other winner: Tony Atlas. RESTHOLD.

(CWA) - Dutch Mantel d. New York Brawler; Billion \$ Babies (debut) d. Jordan/Steele; Tony Anthony/Soultaker d. Kelly/Wilson; Chris Champion d. Grappler; Frankie Lancaster/Ricky Morton d. Kevin Dillinger/Keith Eric; ARENA: Jerry Lawler vs. Bill Dundee; INTERVIEW: Max Pain. RESTHOLD.

# TV TEMPO

Week of Dec. 11-17

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: (From WCW) Ric Flair's "surprise" (Arn Anderson) and Ole Anderson brawl w. Hart's Army; Bruce Wayne/Dick Grayson (Dynamic Dudes) upset Midnight Express. (From Bristol) SST d. Ricky Nelson/Rick Newsome; Kendall Windham d. Sean Regal; M Ex d. Brian Johnson/Rick Connors; DOOMED d. Agent Steel/Rick Fargo; Dudes d. N.Z. Militia by reverse decision when M Ex interfere; Ole & Arn d. Tommy Angel/Italian Stallion. ANGLE: Flair & Lex Luger have verbal standoff. PEDICINO'S NOSE: Joe predicts '89 may end with Luger as NWA champ. RESTHOLD. [WORLD WIDE]: DOOMED d. Tim Fry/Chris Powers; Tom Zenk d. Joe Cezana; M Ex d. Larry Santo/Len Wagner; Ole & Arn d. Joe Cruz/Connors; Tommy Rich/Eddie Gilbert d. Dragonmaster/Buzz Sawyer by reverse decision; Sting d. Mark Kyle. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: Kendall Windham d. Trent Knight; Andersons d. Pat Rose/Galaxian; Freebirds d. Mike Thor/Lee Scott; Sting d. Cruz; Muta/Sawyer/Dragonmaster d. Agent Steel/Bill Ford/Rock Hard Rick; Steiners d. Fargo/Cactus Jack Manson and after, Cactus turns on Fargo and gives him flying elbow from apron; N.Z. Militia d. Santo/Paul Drake; M Ex d. Rick Ryder/Bob Cook; Z-Man d. Samoan Savage by DQ for over top; DOOMED d. Ricky Nelson/Bill Bell; Norman d. Cuban Assassin; ANGLES: 1) Replay of Flair's "surprise"; 2) Flair-Luger verbal standoff. DRAW. [MAIN EVENT]: Kevin Sullivan d. Eddie Gilbert; Andersons d. Freebirds. DRAW.

(USWA) - USWA TAG TOURNEY: J.J. Funk/Dustin Rhodes d. P.Y. Chu'i/Buddy Landell when Gary Young runs in, which angers Landell; Robert Fuller/Brian Lee d. Kerry Von Erich/Bill Dundee; RETROSPECTIVE: Misdeeds of E.J. Travis; Travis/Young d. Chris Adams/Eric Embry when Eric clotheslines Chris & the 2 shove after; Jeff Jarrett/Matt Borne d. Sheik Bradock/Punisher; ANGLE: Kerry denies he & Kevin are at odds. DRAW-PLUS.

(N. AMERICAN) - Ivan Koloff d. Lee Peak; Mr. Wrestling I & II d. Nick Busich/Mr. Pogo; Chic Donovan d. Jeff Gamble; Brad Armstrong d. Larry Santana; Gladiators d. Bill Russell/Clayton Gamble; The Bullet d. Masked Bandit; ANGLES: Chic throws powder at Brad Armstrong; Gladiators & Peggy Lee Leathers attack Bambi at announcers' desk. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA) - Tommy Jammer d. Frankie DeFalco; Akio Sato d. Jim Evans; The Trooper d. Randy Fox; Larry Zbyszko d. W.T. Jones; Paul Diamond d. Pat Tanaka by DQ when Sato runs in. RESTHOLD....Diamond-Tanaka was at least decent.

## LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Ross & Terry Funk, STARRCADE: (JR) "Luger's chest is like an interstate for Flair to hit." (TF) "He had trouble hitting my chest. I didn't have an interstate. I just had a muddy road."
2. Randall Brown, GAS, to Randy Rose: "Dennis Condrey has a reputation of being kind of a no-show."
3. Ed Whalen, STAMPEDE: "What a thrill it is to see Abdul Wiesel. I'd rather have migraine headaches."
4. Roddy Piper, on getting Pampers for Rick Rude: "We'll get one where it cleans the doo-doo from behind."
5. Jim Cornette & Ross, STARRCADE, on Butch Reed's arm: (JC) "That arm's as big as your head, Jim. And that's saying a lot." (JR) "You

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have to have room for brains, Corny. That's why your head's so little." 6. Cornette, STARRCADE: "That scoreboard girl---is that your daughter? I heard you calling her 'baby'." 7. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "Indianapolis is the alma mater of Mr. Belvedere and Batman's buddy Alfred. Butler University ---where they teach you how to wait on people." 8. Ric Flair, NWA, to Lex Luger: "I've heard imitation is the greatest form of flattery. If you're imitation, I'm glad I saved my money." 9. Whalen, STAMPEDE, on flight to L.A.: "Bulldog Bob was running his mouth up front providing all the air pollution." 10. Cornette, STARRCADE, on Road Warriors/Steiners: "It's the insensible force meeting the illiterate object."

11. Funk, STARRCADE: "I kinda like this announcer stuff." 12. Ross, STARRCADE, on Hawk/Reed collision: "That's like a Mack truck running into a Kenmore." 13. Funk, STARRCADE, after Flair rails Sting: "That's an example of that man you people like so well. Do you like him that well now?" 14. Larry Cameron, STAMPEDE: "Owen Hart, I'm gonna beat you like a drum and drive you like a nail." 15. Pete Montana, STAMPEDE: "Jurgenn Hermann has bad advice for both teams." 16. Cornette, STARRCADE: "You said Dennis Brent was leading that contingent of writers. I didn't know any-one led a pack of angry wolves." 17. Ross, STARRCADE, on Rick Steiner: "He's like peanut brittle---half-nuts." 18. Kerry Von Erich, USWA, to Terry Garvin: "You are a woman trapped in a man's body." 19. Cornette, STARRCADE: "I'd like to hook these Atlanta fans to a lie detector. You'd have a bigger explosion than ever." 20. Garvin, USWA, to Marc Lowrance: "I'd give you a piece of my mind but your brain capacity couldn't handle it."

21. Lowrance, USWA: "If I say green, you'll say red just to argue." 22. Ross, STARRCADE, on Flair chopping Luger: "He's like Paul Bunyan chopping that big redwood down." 23. Ventura, WWF, on Dusty/Sapphire's jig: "This ain't SOUL TRAIN or DANCE FEVER." 24. Vince McMahon, WWF: "The Million \$ Man is throwing his weight around like he throws his money around." 25. Diamond D. Page, PWF: "Lucille Ball is turning over in her grave at Rev. Billy's red dye job with black roots." 26. Page, PWF, on jobber: "It's like he's in a gang war and doesn't know anybody." 27. Wirtz, PWF: "Steve Keirn, let's play Mr. Ed. I'll be the head. You be yourself."

**STRONGEST COMMENTS** - 1. Arn Anderson, NWA: "It's real easy to have parity in the NWA when I'm not around." 2. Ross, STARRCADE, to Funk: "You've made me proud to be in this sport this year." 3. Wirtz, PWF: "Bugsy McGraw looks like Willie Nelson after a radioactive blast."

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK** - 1. Piper, PTW, to Rude: "How are you gonna look when we put a Pamper on that back side?" 2. Piper, PTW: "Do you think I don't know how to end a world war?" 3. Garvin, USWA, to Kerry: "Are you gonna deny you and Kevin aren't even really friends?" 4. Garvin, USWA, to Lowrance: "How can you sit there with a straight face and lie like that?" 5. Bad News Brown, WWF, on getting a title shot: "Do I have to call that idiot President Bush? Do I have to call the Pope?"

**NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK** - 1. DUMB JOCK (Cameron on D.J. Peterson). 2. MASTER CYLINDER (Hawk on Paul Ellering). 3. The G. GORDON LIDDY OF WRESTLING (Ross on Ellering). 4. MR.

HUMILIATION (BRO. LUV on Piper).

**BEST PICTURES** - 1. STARRCADE, Flair-Sting match. 2. STARRCADE, WOMAN's face after DOOM's third loss. 3. STARRCADE, Kahuna confers with Samoans. 4. USWA, Embry clotheslines Adams. 5. STAMPEDE, Peterson figure-4 on Cameron. 6. NWA PRO, Hawk shooting bird during interview.

**BEST SIGN** - STARRCADE, "Lex Luger is a steroid user and a blowhard."

**BEST AUDIO** - STARRCADE, Nick Patrick asking Luger if he wanted to stop match with Muta.

**DREADED GLITCH AWARD** - 1. STARRCADE, satellite feed ending before Gordon Solie could interview Sting. 2. STARRCADE, Corny's mike up a bit late on 2 occasions. 3. TBS/WCW, for 2 STARRCADE promos Saturday, 3 days past show.

**BLOOPER AWARDS** - 1. Cameron, STAMPEDE, referring to "J.D." Peterson.

**BOO AWARD** - STAMPEDE, for not letting Cameron-Peterson angle play out in its entirety.

## TUBE TALK

**BETWEEN THE ROPES** Adam Horowitz says Paul E. Dangerously got into an altercation with Mario Savoldi after an ICW show Friday. Paul was involved in an angle and reportedly broke a \$200 mike. From the dressing room, Horowitz saw a big brawl ensue. But all was patched up for Saturday's TV taping....POWER HOUR was pre-empted Friday night for an encore of GONE WITH THE WIND....Eddie Gilbert and Ric Flair taped a match for WCW Thursday night in Peoria and I'm told it's hot!...Our sympathies to Dennis Condrey who missed the ICW show after learning of the sudden death of his father.

AWA only drew \$3,000 for a show in Toronto Dec. 6 with Angelo Mosca as ring announcer....WCW's yearend will be on New Year's Eve as a two-hour special in the NWA MAIN EVENT slot. You'll see Flair-Steamboat III, a progression of the Flair-Funk saga, and CLASH highlights....Jerry Blackwell's next SCW tapings are Dec. 26-27 at Alpharetta GA....Last weekend's SCW was an edited version of an old SCW taping which never aired before the GAS takeover....Terminator definitely going to NWA...NWA now on WTWT (Tampa)....To you and yours, have a wonderful Christmas week. Our double holiday issue is next week. P.S.B.

## MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's nearly Christmas and the spirit is still with us. Your gift order of MATWATCH before Dec. 31 is only \$5 for 7 issues and you still get the 2 bonus issues per 7-issue order, up to a maximum of 13 bonuses in one year.

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## MATWATCH

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**ZEUSED OUT???**: The Hogan/Beefcake vs. Zeus/Savage PPV match was taped in Nashville Dec. 12. We won't give away the ending if you're actually going to pay for it.

**WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?**: Tully Blanchard is apparently putting out the word he's going to work for the Coca-Cola Co. in January in a marketing capacity. But I've also been told by indie promoters Tully is calling, offering to work dates at \$1,500 a shot. Not many takers.

**STAYING HOME FOR EVERYONE**: Recent WWF crowds are hitting the same proportionate lows as the NWA shows. Dec. 9 in Montgomery AL drew 1,714. Macon GA the next night took in 1,200-plus. A premiere card in Roanoke drew 2,100. And as part of predatory booking to knock down an NWA Greensboro show, Vince canceled a Winston-Salem card and the wrestlers were already in town.

**MORE ON CWF**: Last week we reported on pay still owed former CWF wrestlers. Sources tell us David Woods told Robert Fuller a month before the shutdown he had no more money to put into the operation and the guys would have to work on house percentages. Seems Fuller never got around to telling all the guys.

**ANOTHER TRY**: David Hightower is using a lot of the old CWF regulars on an indie show at the Dothan AL Farm Center Dec. 30. Dennis Condrey is skedded vs. Wendell Cooley in a scaffold match and in a 6-man, Afa/Sika/Kokina will take on Bob, Scott & Brad Armstrong.

**OUR BEST WISHES**: Tom Prichard was to be used on the scaffold vs. Condrey but has had to withdraw because his father is scheduled for surgery. Our best to Tom and his family during this period.

**SOUTHERN SOAP**: You wouldn't believe the mess from the indie show at Marietta GA Dec. 10 which featured a lot of the GEORGIA ALL-STAR guys, Kimala vs. Patera and a cage match between the Armstrongs & Rose/Condrey (Dennis didn't show). First, it was an hour and 45 late starting. Around 3:00, they finally brought on Kip Adotta, the comedian, who was summarily booed, paid \$5,000, and left quickly. Then, a group of Elvis impersonators were herded on which left the 600 fans steaming. Finally, at 3:45, three el stinko matches were brought on before a long, long intermission. You didn't have to light a match to explode those fans.

**MORE SOAP**: And how's this? Larry Oldag, who just ceded the promotion back to Jerry Blackwell, had planned to tape the 4-hour show and edit it into four episodes of GAS. But the show promoter hired Atlanta Video to tape it "in order to sell it to ESPN" (if you believe that, you probably think GILLIGAN'S ISLAND is quality TV). That was the last straw that led Oldag to wave the white flag.

**BUT STILL MORE**: Yet, we learned Wednesday night that Randy Rose had gained access to the tape. But it will be very expensive for Blackwell to edit down and use on SCW.

**OLDIES '85**: Don't have a heart attack on this one: but the Rock & Roll Express, Act III, is coming to an NWA arena near you. Yep, Ricky & Robert are scheduled back to work a

## MATWATCHINGS

series vs. the Wild Samoans. I still wouldn't be surprised to wake up and find out Buzz Tyler vs. Ron Bass will be scheduled soon in the Nostalgia Wrestling Alliance. On a serious note, Cactus Jack Manson, one of the real comers in this game, will probably have an NWA start in early '90.

**GIGANTE'S PROGRESS**: Jack Petrik told us at STARRCADE that Jorge Gonzales (El Gigante) is progressing nicely in his training with Hiro Matsuda in Florida. But a decision has not been made if Gonzales will start at WRESTLE WAR in February. Negotiations also continue with Big Van Vader (Leon White) for that show.

**LEX EXTENDS**: Luger has signed a 3-year extension on his NWA deal, assuring his services until late 1992.

**CWF SUITORS**: Several groups were interested in that CWF territory, including Jerry Jarrett, the NWA and at least one other independent promoter. And they still could be contenders for the TV slots if the Dangerously deal falters.

**MORGUE IN MEMPHIS**: The CWA show at Mid-South Coliseum Dec. 11 did \$3,500 worth of business for Lawler vs. Ricky Morton, believed to be the lowest in Memphis history. Jarrett has already openly stated he's ready to shut the city down but Lawler is trying vainly to hold it together. I can't help but believe the end is near.

**PWF WOES**: This sounds like we're pulling out the Kleenex but PWF has lost its time period in two key cities because of terrible November ratings. The Orlando cards have again been indefinitely canceled while the Florida group tries to get on a couple of community cable channels (kiss of death).

**FANTASIES**: Enjoyed Jeff Cohen's new FANTASY FEDERATION bulletin in which you get a chance to book fantasy cards. It's got real possibilities. Write Jeff at 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck NY, for more info and prices.

**SAME BUNCH**: Jesse Ventura's new "Abraxas" flick is being produced by the same people who handled his "Thunderground" film that went straight to videocassette.

## MATWATCH ANNUAL

**MATWATCH 1989: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL** will hopefully provide you with a comprehensive review of the key happenings in TV wrestling in the past year: the people, the top news stories relating to television, the issues and your balloting for the second annual MATWATCH TV AWARDS.

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Note: Gift annuals earn you 3 bonus issues of MATWATCH if you send your check in prior to Dec. 31.

Steve  
Beverly

We're going to save our review of Ric Flair as NWA booker until next week. Somehow, an obituary notice I received this week makes the wrestling world seem a bit insignificant.

By now, many of you are aware of the death of Bill "Haystacks" Calhoun, the former 601-pound wrestler whom Lou Thesz once called "wrestling's first great attraction."

Haystacks died Dec. 7 in McKinney, Texas, and had lived an almost destitute existence in a house trailer with his sister the last few years. Suffering from diabetes since the early '80s, Calhoun had a leg removed in 1986. Yet, he remained close to his Baptist heritage as a member of Waddill Street Baptist Church in his city.

In 1987, the Atlanta Constitution profiled Calhoun as a contrast to the big WWF show which was in town. Haystacks wasn't bitter over missing out on the big payoffs of the 1980s. What concerned him more than anything else was not hearing from any of the wrestlers he had traveled the highways with in his career. Only Thesz kept in close contact.

I remember those nostalgic days of the mid-1960s when Haystacks was still a major star and always could be counted on as the troubleshooter for Florida wrestling. I must have seen him six times and he was always one of the better workers with his legs and feet, which many of the bloated guys of his day were not. He never failed to give his best on any night and this is one MATWATCHer who will miss the guy with the lucky horseshoe and the big heart.

## INSTANT REVIEW:

STARRCADE: The TV Show

Despite having to confront a ton of empty seats in the early going, Keith Mitchell did one of the best overall jobs of direction on an NWA pay-per-view. If any shots were "missed," they were marginal. Cameras were wide on the Steiners-DOOM countout but only because of excellent closeups on the Scott-Simmons battle outside. Otherwise, the show was well-shot and the drama was beautifully built in mixing shots between closeups and mediums, along with the crane camera, in the Flair-Sting finale.

Two glitches in the show: one minor and one bad one. A couple of times, Jim Cornette's mike was slow in being potted up. But the serious infraction was in not getting the post-match interview with Sting on the feed before time expired. Plus, the credits should have been rolled over Gordon Solie and the Road Warriors, Flair and Sting at the end, instead of going to the graphic.

The overall wrestling was good, even though some of the matches had weak crowd reactions. Jim Ross, Cornette and Terry Funk played the commentary more as a sports-oriented style with a limit on overly cute comments. It was an inspired move to switch Cornette, who's doing a better job of getting in and out with his remarks more quickly, and Funk between tag team and singles, primarily to keep fans from wearying with either one. Plus, Ross and Funk, in particular, raised the level of performance of weaker match moments.

To their credit, even though I still believe WCW should have acknowledged Sid Vicious' injury earlier and stretched the truth by saying the decision for Vicious to withdraw was made as late as the day of the show, Ross was honest about Sid's punctured lung, rather than creating some outlandish situation.

One of the best production elements of the broadcast was the use of graphics, both with the manual and character generator scoreboards and the graphic rundown of the scoring system at the top of the show. It was reinforced regularly during the night. At least viewers could follow the progression of the standings, much like in golf, rather than having to guess. Probably the only suggested addition could have been NFL-like graphics at bottom screen in key situations, such as in the finale, one could have read: FLAIR NEEDS PIN OR COUNTOUT TO WIN IRONMAN, STING NEEDS PIN OR SUBMISSION.

Having been there in person, I would suggest the camera angles did not quite capture the essence and drama of the moment when Arn Anderson raised the Four Horseman symbol with Sting because it was difficult to see the 4 fingers.

The tournament concept, when not single elimination, is a harder event to follow in wrestling and sustain interest. And I'm sure WCW officials will hash at length the pros and cons of an Ironman/Ironteam in this format. But regardless of whether it was the originally desired ending, the Flair-Sting finish succeeded in getting Sting the kind of win many insiders have long believed he needed as a legit major contender for the NWA world title. And that, in itself, made the show a success over its slower moments.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE: Crowd Enthusiasm, 3.2 (too many dead moments in heel vs. heel tag match and Steiners-Samoans); Announcing, 4.0; Quality of Matches, 2.6; Overall Production, 4.5 (light shows, entrances, direction excellent); Total Excellence of Show, 3.5. RATING: 17.8.

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